

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxy silane functionalities of the formula (6).



in which

R each, independently, is hydrogen, or an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen, sulfur or a group of the formula (20)

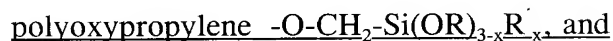


wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1,

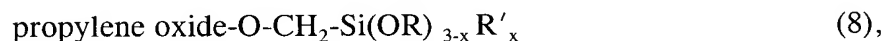
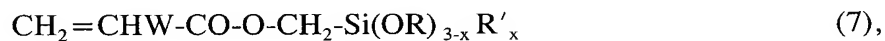
wherein said prepolymers (A) are prepared by reaction of a silane selected from the group consisting of



prepolymer precursor reactive therewith, and wherein the coating composition prepolymer (A) is neat or dissolved in organic solvent.

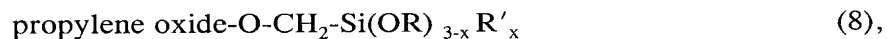
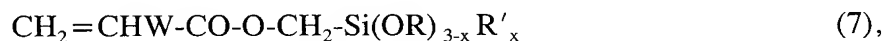
12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the group R is a methyl or ethyl radical.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the silane-functional prepolymers (A) are prepared using at least one silane of the formulae (7) and (8)



where W is a CH₃ group or hydrogen.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the silane-functional prepolymers (A) are prepared using at least one silane of the formulae (7) and (8)



where W is a CH₃ group or hydrogen.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the silane-functional prepolymers (A) are prepared using silanes (A1) of the general formula (9)



16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the silane-functional prepolymers (A) are prepared using silanes (A1) of the general formula (9)



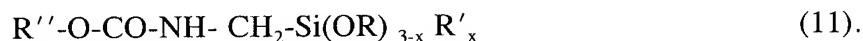
17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the coating formulation (B) further comprises at least one catalyst (K) which accelerates the curing of the prepolymer(s) (A).

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the coating formulation (B) further comprises at least one catalyst (K) which accelerates the curing of the prepolymer(s) (A).

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 17, wherein at least one catalyst (K) is selected from the group consisting of tin catalysts and tertiary amines and mixtures.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the coating formulation (B) further comprises at least one reactive diluent which is a low molecular weight compound having a molecular weight such that the viscosity is not more than 5 Pas at 20°C and which possesses reactive alkoxy silyl groups which are incorporated into a three-dimensional network as the coating cures.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein at least one reactive diluent is selected from the group consisting of alkyltrimethoxysilanes, alkyltriethoxysilanes, vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, partial hydrolysates of these compounds, and compounds of the formulae (10) and (11)



22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the coating formulations (B) further comprise at least one binder (D) bearing no alkoxysilane functionalities of the general formula (6).

23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the coating formulation (B) is solvent-free.

24. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein R is ethyl.

25. (New) The coating of claim 11, wherein at least one prepolymer precursor is selected from the group consisting of polyethers, polyesters, polyurethanes, polyureas, poly(meth)acrylates, polycarbonates, polystyrenes, polysiloxane-urea/urethane copolymers, polyamides, polyvinyl esters, polyvinyl hydroxides, and polyolefins.

26. (New) A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxysilane functionalities of the formula (6).



in which

R each, independently, is hydrogen, or an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen, sulfur or a group of the formula (20)



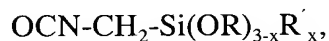
wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1,

wherein said prepolymers (A) are prepared by reaction of a silane selected from the group consisting of

polyoxypropylene $-O-CH_2-Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$, and



with a prepolymer precursor reactive therewith, and wherein the coating composition prepolymer (A) is neat or dissolved in organic solvent.

27. (New) The coating of claim 11, wherein at least one prepolymer precursor is selected from the group consisting of polyethers, polyesters, polyurethanes, polyureas, poly(meth)acrylates, polycarbonates, polystyrenes, polysiloxane-urea/urethane copolymers, polyamides, polyvinyl esters, polyvinyl hydroxides, and polyolefins.

28. A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one polyurethane prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxy silane functionalities of the formula (6).



in which

R each, independently, is hydrogen, or an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen, sulfur or a group of the formula (20)

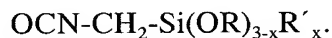


wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1.

29. (New) The coating of claim 28, prepared by reacting a hydroxyl-terminal polyurethane prepolymer with a silane of the formula



30. (New) The coating of claim 1 which is free of heavy metal catalysts.